



IFW

Serial No. 10/601,109

Docket No. 126558

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Commissioner for Patents

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Typed or printed name: Jean G Myers

Signature: Jean G Myers

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Nitin Bhate et al.

: Group Art Unit: 3676

Serial No.: 10/601,109

: Examiner: V. Patel

Filed: June 23rd, 2003

: Response to Paper No. 20030623

For: RETROFITTABLE NON-METALLIC BRUSH SEAL ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In an Office Action dated 30 June 2004, the Examiner restricted the claims of the present application into two groups: Group I—claims 1-21; and Group II—claims 22-27. Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-21 for prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit that, despite the Examiner's contention that the inventions claimed are distinct, the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, because of the closely related nature of the various embodiments of the invention. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the necessity for a restriction requirement in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 20, 2004